

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: D/HA:JMWILSON

APPROVED BY: D/HA:JMWILSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122332

STADIS//////////

C O R R E C T E D COPY (SPECIAL HANDLING STADIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM

FOR LOWMAN FROM WILSON, D/HA

1. SEVERAL ASPECTS OF YOUR PHASE I STATUS REPORT (BANGKOK 13894) GIVE US CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. AFTER DISCUSSING THIS MESSAGE WITH EMBASSY YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSES TO D/HA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NEED FOR TELECON MAY ALSO BE INDICATED.
2. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS NUMBERS. AS OF TODAY OUR FIGURES SHOW THAT 14,627 VISAS FALCON HAVE BEEN SENT IN, OF WHICH 10,420 ARE NOW CLEARED. WE HAVE BIO-DATA ON 8,363 OF WHICH 5,328 ARE CLEARED. OF TOTAL VISAS FALCON SUBMITTED 6,208 ARE LAO, 5,127 CAMBODIANS, AND 4,292 VIETNAMESE.
3. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO SELECT FINAL GROUP FOR INS CLEARANCE AND "A" NUMBERS FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS GROUP. NOW IT SEEMS YOU ARE SUDDENLY CHANGING SIGNALS AND GOING OUTSIDE GROUP FOR WHOM VISAS FALCON SUBMITTED. WHY? IT IS VERY LATE IN THE DAY TO BE MAKING RADICAL SHIFTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN SUCH CHANGES GIVE US CREDIBILITY PROBLEM WITH CONGRESS.

4. AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE ADVISED COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY THAT WE EXPECTED, ON BASIS EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY SCREENING OF 15,000 REFUGEE APPLICANTS USING APPROVED CRITERIA, THAT WE WOULD END UP WITH 3,732 LAO, 3,892 CAMBODIANS AND 3,725 VIETNAMESE. ON THE BASIS OF LATER, FIRMER EMBASSY FIGURES WE SUBSEQUENTLY SUBMITTED IN WRITING REVISED ESTIMATES OF 4,338 LAO, 3,810 CAMBODIANS AND 2,130 VIETNAMESE, INCLUDING THAI DAM, FOR A TOTAL OF 10,300. HAVE THIRD COUNTRIES NOW TAKEN ALMOST 2,000 CAMBODIANS AND 1,200 VIETNAMESE? HOW MANY LAO ARE THEY TAKING? WHERE DID THE EXTRA 2,300 LAO COME FROM (YOUR PARA 5)? WE HAVE TOLD CONGRESS WE WILL NOT TAKE UNSKILLED HILL TRIBESMEN EXCEPT I(A)'S. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ALL THOSE EXTRA VISAS FALCON FOR CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE? HAVE THEY DROPPED OUT? GONE ELSEWHERE? BEEN FOUND INELIGIBLE?

5. WE SEE NO REAL REASON TO TRY TO MAINTAIN ANY SORT OF RESERVE ON THIS EXPANDED PROGRAM. LATEST ESTIMATES OF THIRD COUNTRY INPUT IS 600 PERSONS. THAT LEAVES 10,400 FOR THAILAND. OF THAT NUMBER WE SHOULD BE BENDING EVERY EFFORT TO PROCESS AND HAVE VOLAG'S HERE ACCEPT BY NAME JUST AS MANY AS QUALIFY UNDER CRITERIA AGREED WITH INS AND EXPLAINED TO COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS. IF WE FAIL TO MAKE THAT TARGET (AND THIS ASSUMES ALL WHO ARE NOW QUALIFIED AND CLEARED ARE ACCEPTED BY VOLAG'S PRIOR TO JUNE 30), THE UNUSED PAROLE NUMBERS REMAINING OUT OF 11,000 TOTAL WILL PRESUMABLY BE AVAILABLE FOR LATE ARRIVALS. THE ONLY ADVANTAGE THAT OFFERS, HOWEVER, IS TO RELIEVE THE STRAIN ON WORLDWIDE CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS. PROCESSING WILL HAVE TO BE EXACTLY THE SAME UNDER PAROLE OR CONDITIONAL ENTRY. THERE WILL BE NO MORE MONEY FOR PAYMENT TO THE VOLAG'S OR FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR THESE LATECOMERS, THOUGH THEY MAY QUALIFY FOR TRANSPORTATION LOANS IF THEY BECOME AVAILABLE. THERE IS THUS NO OTHER

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SPECIAL ADVANTAGE IN HOLDING BACK A RESERVE. (WE ARE SENDING SEPARATE MESSAGE ON "VIENTIANE RESERVE" OF 200, WHICH IS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORY BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT SOURCE OF FUNDING.)

6. WITH REGARD TO CATEGORY I(B) IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER YOU PROPOSE TO SHIFT ALL ELIGIBLES TO CATEGORY III AND THEN ADD BALANCE OF REMAINING I(B)'S TO I(A)'S OR HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND. IF THE FORMER, HOW MANY ARE LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED?

7. IT MUST BE VERY CLEAR TO EVERYONE CONCERNED THAT THIS PROGRAM MUST PHASE OUT JUST AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. AFTER JUNE 30 THE ONLY THING LEFT TO BE DONE IS TO MOVE

THOSE PEOPLE TO THE U.S. WHO HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND
ACCEPTED BY A VOLAG BUT WHO COULD NOT FOR MECHANICAL
REASONS BE MOVED SOONER. IF ICEM STARTS OPERATING NOW
AT PEAK CAPACITY AS IT SHOULD AND CONTINUES INTO POST-
JUNE 30 PERIOD, SEE NO REASON WHY THIS CANNOT ALL BE
WRAPPED UP BY OCTOBER 1. LOCAL PROBLEMS OF ANY NEW
REFUGEES SHOULD BE HANDLED AFTER JUNE 30 BY THE EMBASSY
CONSULAR SECTION. ONLY SPECIAL RESIDUAL USG FUNCTIONS
WILL BE PERFORMED UNDER PASA ARRANGEMENT WITH AID
NOW BEING PUT IN FINAL FORM. KISSINGER

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